<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claims 1-42 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 43-65 as follows.

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43. An outline forming apparatus comprising:

memory means for storing first information indicating positions of first outline points for forming an outline of a pattern having a predetermined weight, and for storing second information, provided for each first outline point individually, for deciding positions of second outline points forming an outline of the pattern having a weight different from the predetermined weight;

input means for inputting weight information indicating a desired weight of an outline of the pattern to be generated;

decision means for deciding a position of each of the second outline points for forming an outline of the pattern having the desired weight based on the first and second information; and

generating means for generating an outline of the pattern using the second outline points at the positions decided by said decision means.

44. An outline forming apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising judgment means for judging

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whether or not ach of the first outline points has non-zero second information provided therefor,

wherein said decision means decides the positions of the second outline points by changing the positions of the first outline points having non-zero second information provided therefor.

45. An outline forming apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising output means for outputting the pattern based on the outline generated by said generating means.

46. An outline forming apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said output means comprises a printer.

47. An outline forming apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the second information indicates relative positions of the second outline points relative to the positions indicated by the first information, said relative positions corresponding to changes in position due to the desired weight being different from the predetermined weight.

48. An outline forming apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said decision means decides the positions of the second outline points by using the first information, the second information and a predetermined function.

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49.   An outline forming apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the predetermined function changes based on the desired weight.

50.   An outline forming apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the second information indicates plural positions of second outline points respectively corresponding to plural values of weight.

51.   An outline forming apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the second information indicates an allowable amount of movement of each of the first outline points.

52.   An outline forming apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the amount of movement of a first outline point is restricted based on whether or not an outline containing a resultant second outline point intersects another outline containing another second outline point.

53.   An outline forming apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the amount of movement of a first outline point is restricted based on whether or not the first outline point emerges from a body frame of the pattern.

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54. An outline forming method comprising:

storing first information indicating positions of first outline points for forming an outline of a pattern having a predetermined weight, and storing second information, provided for each first outline point individually, for deciding positions of second outline points forming an outline of the pattern having a weight different from the predetermined weight;

inputting weight information indicating a desired weight of an outline of the pattern to be generated;

deciding a position of each of the second outline points for forming an outline of the pattern having the desired weight based on the first and second information; and

generating an outline of the pattern using the second outline points at the positions decided by said decision step.

55. An outline forming method according to claim 54, further comprising the step of judging whether or not each of the first outline points has non-zero second information provided therefor,

wherein said decision step decides the positions of the second outline points by changing the positions of the first outline points having non-zero second information provided therefor.

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56. An outline forming method according to claim 54, further comprising the step of outputting the pattern based on the outline generated by said generating step.

57. An outline forming method according to claim 56, wherein said output step comprises printing.

58. An outline forming method according to claim 54, wherein the second information indicates relative positions of the second outline points relative to the positions indicated by the first information, said relative positions corresponding to changes in position due to the desired weight being different from the predetermined weight.

59. An outline forming method according to claim 54, wherein said decision step decides the positions of the second outline points by using the first information, the second information and a predetermined function.

60. An outline forming method according to claim 59, wherein the predetermined function changes based on the desired weight.

61. An outline forming method according to claim 54, wherein the second information indicates plural positions

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of second outline points relatively corresponding to plural values of weight.

62. An outline forming method according to claim 54, wherein the second information indicates an allowable amount of movement of each of the first outline points.

63. An outline forming method according to claim 62, wherein the amount of movement of a first outline point is restricted based on whether or not an outline containing a resultant second outline point intersects another outline containing another second outline point.

64. An outline forming method according to claim 62, wherein the amount of movement of a first outline point is restricted based on whether or not the first outline point emerges from a body frame of the pattern.

65. An outline forming method according to claim 54, wherein the first and second information is stored in a read only memory.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Cancel lines 2-27 and substitute the following therefore: